

PHILIP D. MURPHY GOVERNOR

SHEILA Y. OLIVER

TRENTON, NJ 08625-0082 WWW.NJ.GOV/ETHICS

JOSEPH P. LASALA, ESQ. CHAIR

MARK T. HOLMES, ESQ. ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 13, 2018

Valerie Hayes, Esq. **Ethics Liaison Officer** Stockton University 101 Vera King Farris Drive Galloway, NJ 08625-0082

> Re: Waiver to the Provisions of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-17.2(b)

Dear Ms. Hayes:

At its June 12, 2018 meeting, the State Ethics Commission considered your request on behalf of Heizel Prince, Professional Services Specialist 4, Stockton University, whose husband, Robert Prince, is currently employed by the Tropicana Hotel & Casino as a bartender. Based on the facts and circumstances set forth below, the Commission granted a waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b).

Generally, Section 17.2(b) of the Conflicts Law prohibits all State officers and employees and members of their immediate families from holding an interest in, holding employment with, representing, appearing for, or negotiating on behalf of the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license or any holding or intermediary company with respect thereto. However, the statute also contains the following exception language:

> except that ... a member of the immediate family of a State officer or employee, or person, may hold employment with the holder of, or applicant for, a casino license if, in the judgment of the State Ethics Commission ... such employment will not interfere with the responsibilities of the State officer or employee, or person, and will not create a conflict of interest, or reasonable risk of the public perception of a conflict of interest, on the part of the State officer or employee, or person

The Commission agrees that there is no conflict between Ms. Prince's position at Stockton University and her husband's employment with Tropicana Hotel & Casino. Ms. Prince's position and her husband's employment do not overlap, and there is no conflict of interest or reasonable risk of the public perceiving any kind of conflict between his position and his wife's casino employment.

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Based on the facts and circumstances set forth above, the Commission granted the waiver of the general prohibition of section 17.2(b) in the case of Heizel Prince and her husband, Robert Prince.

Very truly yours,

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

For the Commission Mark T. Holmes

Acting Executive Director

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